

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks and the above amendments to the claims, allowance of the above referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 9, and 16 were objected for reciting "locking member movable" instead of "locking member being movable". Claims 1 and 9 were corrected as suggested. Claim 16 has been cancelled.

Claim 3 was objected to for reciting "the index" instead of "the indexer." Claim 3 has been corrected as suggested.

Claim 10 was objected for reciting "index translator" instead of "indexer translator." Claim 10 has been cancelled and incorporated in claim 9.

The above corrections are informalities and should be not considered as amendments for the purpose of patentability. Allowance of claims 1, 3, and 9 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Adams (U.S. Pat. No. 2,801,142). Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the further elements of claims 2 and 10, "a channel for retaining said limb extension bar, said channel passing through said housing unit, said index translator, and said locking member." The Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 10, which depended from claims 1 and 9, respectively, contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly Applicants request claims 1 and 9 be passed to allowance. Claims 3-5, 8, which depend from claim 1, and claims 11, 12 and 15, which depend from claim 9, also are believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully requested. Claims 16-18 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, and 14, were objected to as being dependent upon rejected claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including

all of the limitations. Applicants have included the elements of claims 2 and 10 within claims 1 and 9, respectively, and allowance is respectfully requested. Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 6, 7, 13 and 14 now depend from either claim 1 or claim 9, both of which are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 19 and 20 have been added to depend from claim 1 and 9, respectively, to indicate that the base member is stationary. Claims 19 and 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Other Prior Art.

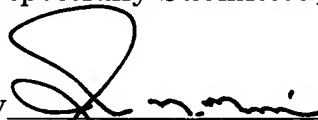
Applicants agree with the Examiner that Torrey (U.S. Pat. No. 3,817,512), Wiley et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,689,999) and Adolphson (U.S. Pat. No. 3,100,129) are pertinent to the state of art but are not directly relevant to the present application.

Conclusion

Amended claims 1, 3, and 9, original claims 4-8 and 11-15, along with newly added claims 19 and 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added to this application. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

By



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